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## ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE AND THE OPEN WING ALLIANCE APPLAUD HILTON, LOUVRE HOTELS GROUP, AND MELIÁ HOTELS INTERNATIONAL FOR TRANSPARENT PROGRESS REPORTING ON THEIR COMMITMENTS TO SERVING 100% CAGE-FREE EGGS

Once implemented, the companies' commitments will improve the lives of nearly 861,000 hens in their supply chains

(Accra— March 26, 2024)—Animal Welfare League, a member of the Open Wing Alliance (OWA), a global coalition working to end the abuse of chickens worldwide, announces that Hilton, Louvre Hotels Group, and Meliá Hotels International—have all made impressive strides in their transparency in reporting progress on their commitments to source 100% cage-free eggs in their entire portfolios globally. This vital reporting comes just [17 days] after the launch of a global campaign led by the OWA, urging hospitality companies to provide details on their cage-free egg implementation plans. Once implemented, the combined commitments will reduce the suffering of nearly 861,000 hens in supply chains annually.

Details of the transparent progress include:

- **Hilton** has committed to disclosing the percentage of cage-free eggs across its entire portfolio, broken down by sub-region, along with a detailed plan (a "glide path") to achieve 100% cage-free eggs in its managed hotels in the US, UK, Ireland, and Europe.
- **Louvre Hotels Group** has shared its current global cage-free egg percentage and has pledged to provide regional reports for its entire portfolio by July 2024. The group has confirmed this reporting will encompass all forms of eggs, including liquid and egg products.

• **Melia** has agreed to global reporting across its entire portfolio and will additionally provide information at both regional and country levels.

"Hilton, Louvre, and Meliá's commitments to ensuring a more ethical supply chain is an important step toward ending the cruel confinement of egg-laying hens and driving a more humane food system," says Caitlin Campbell, Global Campaigns Coordinator, the Open Wing Alliance. "We are calling on Banyan Tree Group to follow the lead of Hilton, Louvre, and Meliá and its subsidiaries and report on its cage-free progress by region. Failure to do so will put Banyan Tree Group in jeopardy of losing consumer and investor trust."

"We at the Animal Welfare League applaud Hilton, Louvre Hotel Group, and Meliá for their commitment to greater transparency and ethical egg sourcing. However, we urge equity in reporting across all regions, including Africa. We encourage them to uphold these renewed commitments globally, creating a unified standard for ethical egg sourcing. We remain available to support them in addressing any challenges to achieve this goal in Africa"—Dr. Jacob Ayang, Corporate Campaigns Lead, Animal Welfare League.

As investors join consumers in prioritizing the ESG principles of ethical supply chains, companies across the globe and their suppliers are rising to the challenge. More than 2,500 companies have made cage-free egg commitments, 146 of which impact a company's global supply chain. Many global hospitality industry leaders have completed implementation and are sourcing 100% cage-free eggs in their supply chains, including JetBlue, Dorchester Collection, Motel One, and Starhotels.

This progress follows the release of a <u>new</u> animal welfare report: <u>Fair and Fowl: Global Travel</u> <u>Edition</u>, which examines ethical gaps within the travel industry.

Caged systems promote stress, reproductive disease, and poor bone health in egg-laying hens. For more information, visit our <u>cage-free page</u> on our <u>website</u>.

## **About the Open Wing Alliance (OWA)**

Founded in 2016 by <u>The Humane League</u>, the <u>Open Wing Alliance</u> is a coalition of close to 100 animal protection organizations in 70 countries on six continents, <u>trailblazing</u> farm animal welfare in nearly every market globally. Through shared knowledge, resources, and people power, the OWA is united around their goal to end the abuse of chickens worldwide.

## **About Animal Welfare League**

**Animal Welfare League, a member** of the <u>Open Wing Alliance</u>, is dedicated to promoting better animal welfare in Ghana for farmed, aquatic, and wild animals, among others. We achieve this through collaboration with stakeholders, communities and government.